

Quick Strokes

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WINTER, 1983

Standard status for the alternative arrangement of characters is now a fact

ANSI X4.22-1983 (new standard) is the designation for the Alternative Keyboard Arrangement for Alphanumeric Machines.

This news is conveyed in a Notification of Approval of Standard from Dianne E. Kelley, secretary, Board of Standards Review, and addressed to Catherine A. Kachurik at the office of the Computer and Business Equipment Manufacturers' Association in Washington, D.C.

The date of ANSI approval is November 19, 1982. ANSI is American National Standards Institute, Inc., 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. The institute will insert a notice of approval in a forthcoming issue of its magazine, *Standards Action*.

Copies of the notification went to the chairman and secretary of the Standards Management Board and to J. A. N. Lee, John Burke, and Philip Davis.

Standard status for the variants of the Dvorak arrangement that will appear in a diagram in the published standard does not imply endorsement any more than publication of a standard for the conventional arrangement endorses those variants. All it says is that the variants that appear in the standard seem to prevail where the alternative arrangement is in use, with the implication that the same ones will prevail as the alternative comes into wider application.

New paper by Yamada

Technical Report 82-11 of the Department of Information Science, Faculty of Science, University of Tokyo, is by Professor Yamada-Hisao and is titled *Human Factors Aspects in the Touch Typing of Japanese Text*.

In 1982 August a training course in input to the Superwriter II, with four experimental operators, was under way at the U. of T. The machine was "designed with the philosophy that the two-stroke Kanzi code need not consider any memory devices such as mnemonics or associations. It is designed to provide utmost smoothness of hand and finger motions in typewriting, which is basically an extension of Dvorak's (1936) philosophy," according to Yamada.

The language of the paper is English. The language of the trainees' practice copy is Japanese. Because the human frame and nervous system vary so little from nation to nation, Yamada's insights will be instructive everywhere.

One of these is that as operator skill increases, the control of finger motions moves from the left to the right hemisphere of the brain. This transition apparently is the same as or similar to what I have been thinking of as a transfer from the auditory and visual senses and memories to the kinaesthetic sense and memory.

TR 82-11 was an invited paper at the Sixth International conference on Software Engineering, 1982 September, Tokyo, Japan. The rest of the address for the source is 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-Ku Tokyo, 113 Japan.

Dvorak typing is a wanted specialty on Oregon State employment application form

Under "related skills" in the box headed "Certification of clerical skills" in the State of Oregon Employment Application, we find eight boxes for exes with the instruction "Check if you are trained and/or experienced in:". Last among the specialties is Dvorak typing, spelled out and with DVK added.

The other "related skills" are Video terminal (CRT), Legal transcription (LEG), Medical terminology (MDT), Medical transcription (MED), Production typing environment (PRO), Sign language (SGL), and Word processing equipment (W/P).

This is the application form and not the recruiting announcement. The announcements can be secured, no doubt, through the Personnel Division, Executive Department, State of Oregon, 155 Cottage NE, Salem, Oregon 97310.

From practical experience with the Magic Keyboard

By George Russell

The Magic Keyboard will instantly reconfigure the Apple II keyboard to a variety of patterns including the recently standardized Dvorak Simplified Keyboard (DSK). A flick of a switch changes the "Qwerty" arrangement to one of the following:

Dvorak Simplified, American Simplified, alphabetical order, Montgomery, one-handed — left, one-handed — right.

The availability of these arrangements can significantly improve the man-computer interface and place the power of the computer more easily in the hands of computer users. For example, those without typing skills can more naturally, more quickly and efficiently learn the DSK keyboard for word processing. Furthermore, parents might enable young children to easily find the keys by arranging them in alphabetical order.

With the push of a button, the Magic Keyboard also provides several different numeric keyboards to the Apple II, which is devoid of same. Accountants and others with numeric data entry requirements will find it easier to use the existing Apple II keyboard. Machine level programmers have available a hexadecimal keypad for their speedier data input.

An impressive number of unconventional layouts is currently available, but additional custom layouts can be provided by the very helpful folks at Southern California Research Group, P.O. Box 2231, Goleta, CA 93118, (805) 685-1931.

Normal installation of the \$89.95 Magic Keyboard should take about six minutes. It is compatible with most software and hardware for the Apple II computer.

The Magic Keyboard is highly recommended to any Apple computer user.

Editor's Note: George and Judy Russell do business as Northeast Agricomputing, at Whiteface Ranch, Box 153, Shoreham, Vermont 05770.

Segment shot at Carmel Middle School is shown on the Today show

A television camera crew visited the personal typing classroom at the Carmel, California, Middle School early in the fall. The segment was shown nationally, on the Today show, on October 18, 1982.

Albert C. Kolb, the teacher, played himself, and his students, some at the conventional keyboard and others at their alternatively arranged keyboard, played themselves also. Parents often provide an alternative typewriter for the Dvorak students, and in any case the skill is useful, because Kolb regards the written work for other courses as acceptable practice matter.

"Today" is an early morning program. Quick strokes readers might write to "Programmer" at their local TV station and ask for a repeat of that segment at another hour. It cannot fail to arouse interest.

Programmer operator converts his own equipment

Wesley Lane, of Sacramento, California, reports great satisfaction in having converted to a Dvorak arrangement the Osborn I computer which he owns and in having learned the keyboard as an all-fingers operator. At a conventional keyboard, he expects to remain a one-finger sight hunter.

He agrees with a writer in *Byte*, Jerry Pornell, who calls for a computer with built-in quick conversion — not with a disc but with a toggle or a keyed-in signal to select the character arrangement.

Lane's business address is David E. Lane, Inc., real estate appraisers, 1900 19th St., Sacramento 95814.

Chaffee puts his Displaywriter to work

James Chaffee, of San Francisco, has favored Quick Strokes with a letter, written on his new IBM Displaywriter, which is quite beautiful. The story is that the salesman who served him found it hard to believe that it is really so simple to apply an IBM Dvorak arrangement to that equipment — specify a Dvorak keyboard in the order, pay the same price as for the same machine with a conventional arrangement, and plug your keyboard in.

The salesman called the IBM problem center in Dallas and was set straight.

Videx Microcomputer Peripherals offers Apple conversion to Dvorak arrangement

Videx, Inc., offers an option for the Apple II computer which transforms the Apple's QWERTY keyboard into a Dvorak keyboard.

In June, 1981, Videx introduced a Dvorak EPROM for its keyboard and Display Enhancer. This EPROM was a plug-in chip which could remap the keyboard to the Dvorak layout. In January, 1982, Videx introduced its Enhancer II.

The Enhancer II, which replaced the Keyboard and Display Enhancer, boasted user-programmable keys. The disc included in Enhancer II package contains a program, which, with an Enhancer II installed, can remap the Apple's QWERTY keyboard into a Dvorak machine within four seconds.

For those who need an instant Dvorak keyboard, Videx offers a Dvorak EPROM for the Enhancer II (\$29.00). The disc program is ideal for those who would like to learn to use the Dvorak keyboard but are not sure they want to use it all the time.

There is a unique EPROM for each model of the Enhancer. Each installs on the Enhancer board, so that some disassembly of the Apple is required. The operation is not difficult, however, and needs to be done only once.

Videx does not offer keycaps for the Dvorak keyboard; users may, however, remove and interchange the keycaps themselves. (This may not be possible on newer Apple II keyboards that have the nicer, sculptured keycaps.) Videx does not recommend any particular skill-building manual or learner's kit.

One member of Videx's own technical staff has trained himself on the Dvorak keyboard.

Videx is at 897 Northwest Grant Ave., Corvallis, Oregon 97330.

ResiCorp promises instant conversion for the IBM personal computer

A memory-resident keyboard enhancement for the IBM Personal Computer is now available from ResiCorp, 1108 Valencia St., Dallas, Texas 75223. The product is distributed as a command file which operates on the PC-DOS operating system. The command allows the keyboard to be instantly switchable between the conventional and Dvorak arrangements.

This enhancement can be installed so that it automatically becomes effective each time the system is started. Fully compatible with most PC-DOS software, including Visicalc, WordStar, Easy Writer 1.1, etc.

At the time of the release from ResiCorp, the price had not been determined, but Michael A. Wiles, president, reports that it will be less than \$50.00.

One place to order a keyboard conversion

Brian Trask, 31 Maple St., Brandon, VT 05733, telephone (802) 773-3376, is equipped and qualified to make conversions from the conventional to the alternative keyboard arrangement, both on type bar typewriters and the IBM Selectric.

The charge for the job is ordinarily \$75. Shipping both ways, and packing for shipment, will of course be extra. The Selectric conversion at this price is by rearranging the interposers. To reverse it requires the same job to be done again.

Query: Does Trask install the universal vane when it is ordered? If so, what is the cost?

Dvorak keyboard support by Newscript, of North Hollywood

"Once learned, the Dvorak keyboard layout is far more efficient than" the conventional qwerty, "and can result in faster, more accurate typing. Although a typewriter can't easily work both ways, a microcomputer such as the TRS-80 can be switched back and forth under program control.

"After reading an article about Dvorak in the December, 1980, issue of 80 Microcomputing, we developed a high-speed translator for Dvorak. Next, we modified 80-Northwest's superb "Typing Tutor" to help you learn to type in Dvorak. Finally, we printed a set of press-on labels to help you to peek when the typing tutor isn't handy.

"You can order just the Dvorak keyboard translator if you already know how to touch-type on Dvorak; otherwise we recommend purchase of the Tutor as well. A Dvorak version of Newscript's keyboard support is also included if you own or order Newscript.

"Equipment: A 32- or 48-K TRS-80 Model I or III with at least one disk drive is needed. The Dvorak version of Newscript requires 48-K and at least one disk."

The quoted matter above is from "Newscript Options", a release by Prosoft, a division of TTSC, Postoffice Box 560, North Hollywood, California. Quick Strokes would love to evaluate the tutor. Anybody willing to lend a TRS-80, a translator, and a tutor?

The translator is \$19.95, the tutor the same, and the pair at a discount.

Pulling for Barbara

"Very sorry to hear about Barb's troubles. Please tell her to keep fighting, from me.

"I had for years harboured this prejudice — belief — fantasy that the conventional keyboard was a subversive plot but could not find others who agreed. It was by the sheerest luck and with great joy that I discovered your organization . . .

"I aim to become a dual user. It will be interesting, not least because of the chance for me to feel the differences personally."

—Michael Staindl, Nunawading, Australia

"I use DSK with Wordstar," Sanford S. Friedrich, Houston, Texas.

WANTED — Any old, old typewriter with a Dvorak arrangement on the keyboard. Virginia Russell, P.O. Box 128, Brandon, VT 05733, telephone (802) 247-6020.

HANDI-KEYS CUSTOM DESIGNS KEYBOARDS FOR TRS-80 MODEL II. ENTER TEXT FOR ANALYSIS OF KEYS USED BY EACH FINGER AND HAND. MACHINE LANGUAGE DRIVER CHANGES KEYBOARD TO DVORAK, ONE-HANDED, OR USER-DEFINED. ANALYZE TYPING LESSONS.

DISKETTE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR \$36.

RONALD MC CUISTON
5795 ADELYN ROAD
PENSACOLA, FL 32504

STARTING MANUAL FOR ALTERNATIVE KEYING — Titled Simplified Keyboard Supplement and written by the late, great August Dvorak and others, it contains Lessons 1 to 5 and 16 to 19.

It merges with any full-length typing manual or with practice material of your choice. Three dollars at Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. In California, add 18¢ tax.

DVORAK SELECTRIC ELEMENT — Please specify pica or elite type; please specify whether for a Selectric, or a Selectric I or II, or a Selectric III. Arrangement is close to the classic Dvorak, digits reading, left to right 7, 5, 3, 1, 9 for the left hand, and right to left, 8, 6, 4, 2, 0 for the right hand. \$111 dollars at Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc. P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, telephone 916-446-3377. A starting manual, the Simplified Keyboard Supplement, is included. Two sheets of 77 half-inch round press-on labels with the alphabet, extra vowels, punctuation, and digits are included. Pairing of digits and special symbols corresponds to the Dvorak Selectric arrangement. Delivery in two weeks after receipt of order and payment. In California, add 6% tax.

From a user operator in the military

By Lt. J. C. Mitchell

MONOB (YAG-61), Cape Canaveral, Florida

Have you considered talking to the typewriter people and proposing that they start a school to teach office workers how to type on the Dvorak keyboard? If, for instance, IBM offered a free school that guaranteed to improve their throughput and decrease mistakes, many businesses would be interested.

A smart marketing person at IBM could take this idea and end up selling more typewriters than ever, at the same time improving the typist and saving the business mucho money. Everyone would be happy, including those of us who hate qwerty.

I went to MIT and know Seymour Papert. I loved hearing that he coined the term "Qwerty" — sounds just like him.

Keep up the good work.

Editor's note: The office to write to is External Submissions, IBM Corp., Armonk, NY 10504. Better prospects would be banks and insurance companies, who do run their own clerical training programs.

Lawyer converts an Osborne

By Ben Cohen, Niles, Illinois

I found SMARTKEY for my Osborne I (through QS of course), and it does allow conversion of the keyboard to DSK — we're actually using ASK. WordStar "control" characters are another problem! I haven't fully resolved them yet.

Wang doesn't seem very supportive of DSK. My sales rep was told only on OIS products (their biggest word processors) and only in Oregon, though your reported Wang user told me she had a small Wang WP unit. I'm still working on them.

Query from Oregon

"I am looking for a manufacturer or modifier that supplies Dvorak keyboards for the IBM Personal Computer, Radio Shack TRS-16 Computer, and the Grid Compass Portable Computer. Programs that modify the conventional keyboard in the memory would be acceptable." — J. D. Riffle, General Delivery, Lebanon, OR 97355.

DIF East and DIF West, hours by appointment, please

The Dvorak International Federation has two offices, for short, DIF East and DIF West.

The headquarters is at DIF East, 11 Pearl St., Postoffice Box 128, Brandon, Vermont. The manager there is Virginia Russell, president of the federation. Telephone (802) 247-6020.

DIF West is a branch, located at 2015½ Fourth St., Sacramento, California 95818. Landmarks are tall olives between sidewalk and curb and bushy camellias in the dooryard. Manager, Phil Davis, telephone (916) 448-3377, member DIF board of directors.

The object of DIF is not so much to arouse interest in the better arrangement of characters on keyboards as to organize and coordinate the interest that already exists.

Lines from queries

"I am a touch typist who is interested in learning to use the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard." — J. R. Youngblood, Staunton, Virginia.

"Since discovering the Dvorak keyboard on an IBM Displaywriter two months ago, I have become an instant convert." — Ken Stone, Glendale, California.

Bibliographic note

Golden Gate Word Processing Xchange News for 1982 November has two references to Dvorak keying. See page 8 for a note on the first printing of McWilliams, Peter A., *The Word Processing Book* (Prelude Press). See page 18 for a letter from Barbara Blackburn.

GGWPX News is at 1255 Post St., No. 625, San Francisco CA 94109. To nonmembers of the Xchange, subscriptions are \$20.

Blackburn is better

Barbara Blackburn is recovering from successful surgery for a cancerous condition and will be convalescing at home by the time you receive this *Quick Strokes*.

Mrs. Blackburn is a key figure in the Dvorak movement and is well and widely known as a demonstrator of terrific speed at the alternatively arranged keyboard. She expects to return to her job at the State Farm Mutual word-processing center in Salem, Oregon, although not yet for a while.

Her home address is 4895 Pennsylvania SE, Salem, Oregon 97301, but please do not expect prompt replies to get-well cards. Her daughter Sonia, who is also a Dvorak operator, is carrying a full schedule in a legal administrative assistant course at Merritt-Davis School of Business, Salem.

Redefining the VIC keyboard

Baldwin Maull, attorney, of New York, draws our attention to an article in *Computer* for October, 1982, page 156, in which occurs the following sentence:

"The program also allows the user to redefine any key as any other key."

The article is by Amihai Glazer, assistant professor of economics at the University of California, Irvine, CA 92717, and is titled "The VIC Keyboard Redefined." The program for installing a numeric keypad calls for 34 steps.

Maull also caught, at an exhibition at the Coliseum in October, the Xerox 8010, their executive work station. By the use of a "mouse", the user can invoke the Dvorak keyboard.

For immediate delivery

Belmont Adams, 4 Park Ave., Rural Route 1, Scarborough, Maine 04074, has Dvorak Selectric elements in stock for immediate delivery. He includes with each element a set of directions for disconnecting the vane link, a maneuver which improves uniformity of impression.

FOR SALE: Almost new SCM Coronematic 2200 with ASK Dvorak keyboard. Carrying case and short ASK typing course manual included. \$400 or best offer. Katie Collins (219 234-0131 or P.O. Box 4123, South Bend, IN 46634.

FOR RENT — Motion picture film, "Motion Study of the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard," 16mm., black and white, silent, 20 minutes. Old but good. View it more than once, the better to appreciate the difference in hand position. \$10 per week. Order from Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

STILL AVAILABLE — with the alternative (ASK) arrangement of characters, the Coronematic 8000 office typewriter from Smith-Corona at \$535, the Coronematic 2500 portable at \$439, plus, in California, 6% sales tax. Delivery in 120 days after receipt of order and payment. Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, telephone 916-446-3377.

FOR RENT — Videotape, "Typewriters: Dvorak Made a Better One," narrated by Albert C. Kolb, Carmel (California) Middle School, time 14 minutes and 19 seconds. Narrator and secretary demonstrate an interesting and innovative alternative to the standard keyboard. Motivates student interest in the typewriter and in developing skills. In UCA 30 cassette. Per week \$10. Shipping weight 1 lb., 12 ozs. Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.



**MODERN KEYBOARDS
by KOLB**

SCM -ASKs

2500s
Classic 12s
1770 Juarez St., Seaside, CA 93955
(408) 394-4284

South Carolina business man is curious about the merits of two variants

Sam Dargan, of The Seedlings C., 305 Timrod Park, Florence, SC 29501, is interested in the comparison between DSK and ASK. DSK is an acronym that refers to the original Dvorak arrangement, which places the digits and punctuation in a more rational set of locations than ASK. The latter acronym refers to the arrangement with the digits in conventional order and with the punctuation conforming to the pairing that was introduced with electrically powered typing.

Quick Strokes uses DSK, and yet its editor-publisher, P. H. Davis, went along with the majority of the working group in selecting an ASK variant as a candidate for American National standard status. The whole working group knew which arrangement was intrinsically better, but the whole group also realized what an obstacle to implementation the phenomenon of layman's intuition can be.

Illinois user of ASK writes

"I've been looking for you guys for about two years now, ever since I bought an SCM Coronamatic 2500 with ASK. I'm sold on the simplified keyboard.

"I saw the short squib in 'Bytelines' (*Byte*, May 1982). I've implemented a DSK on an Apple II plus but find that loading software packages, such as Easywriter, wipes it out. I'd really like something that I can use in all cases. Hardware (EPROMS) seem to be the answer and I am aware of Videx's EPROM for the Apple." From John L. Wilmer, Urbana, Illinois.

Query on the Texas Instruments 99 over 4A

L. A. Becker, of Austin, Texas, asks, "Do you know anyone who has converted the keyboard?" on the Texas Instruments 99/4A home computer.

We welcome such queries. Even more, we welcome answers. Readers, if your information is authentic, please contribute and help DIF, *Quick Strokes*, and other readers.

Also, to everybody with a query about conversion from the conventional arrangement to the alternative, we repeat, "Harrass your vendor." Venders should know their merchandise.

How the FitzMaurice Dvorak layout diverges from the ANSI standard alternative

A diagram from K. E. FitzMaurice, 4038 Hamilton St., Omaha, NE 68131, shows that the layout that is obtained by his method (see *Quick Strokes* Vol. X, No. 2, page 2) differs from the one we show on page 1, same issue. Question mark over slash appear at Rank D, file 01, and quote over apostrophe are at Rank D, file D11. That is, slash and apostrophe (right single quote in the FitzMaurice diagram) change places, and their seatmates go with them.

FitzMaurice would like to see a new edition of the complete Dvorak learners' manual, *Synergistic Typing*.

International Association of Word-Processing Specialists circulates a brochure

Max Trejo, P.O. Box 14995, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106, expresses interest in the Dvorak keyboard layout. He is vice-president for membership of the Rio Grande chapter of the International Association of Word-Processing Specialists.

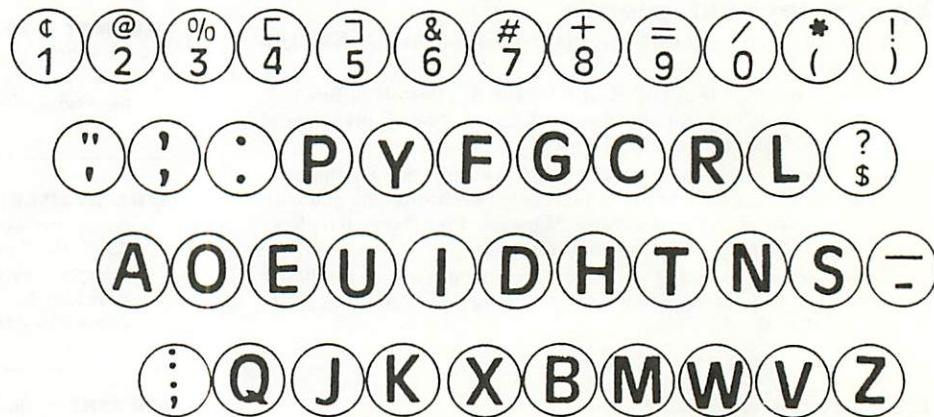
In a brochure which can be had from Jeff James, I A of W P S, 1669 South Voss, Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77057, the association quotes "industry experts" who predict 80,000 new jobs by 1985 relating to information processing and management.

Is there now or will there ever be?

High Technology raises, in its January, 1983, issue, the question "Will there ever be an efficient keyboard?" The article, by Cary Lu, executive editor of HT, has the subhead "Drive for office productivity overlooks keyboards."

The discussion of the deficiencies of the conventional arrangement of characters is adequate, the Dvorak advantages are outlined, and reference is made to certain untested proposed keyboard reforms.

One sentence puzzles us: "The evidence suggests that during the learning phases, typists must not use both, but after learning a second keyboard, it is possible . . ." What evidence?



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